

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2007

Members Present: Mr. Stowe, Mr. Martin, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Daniel, Mr. DeLoach, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Hayes, Mrs. Marlowe, Mrs. Murphy, Supt. Rex, Mr. Robinson, Rep. Walker, Senator Williams

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Stowe welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He extended a particular welcome to Superintendent Rex who was attending his initial meeting as an EOC member.

II. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of December 11 were approved as distributed. Mr. Stowe asked the status of the follow-up actions regarding the U. S. History and Constitution end-of-course examination. Dr. Anderson explained that the EOC staff, working with the SDE staff, is surveying U. S. History teachers to gain understanding of the time and attention devoted to the various standards.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. DeLoach reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He explained that he, Dr. Rex and staff from the two agencies had met informally to discuss the timing of the release of the report card and were scheduled to meet again. Any EOC member wishing to participate in the discussions is welcome to join in the conversations.

At Mr. DeLoach's request Dr. Anderson explained the process used by EOC and SDE staff to identify and suggest changes to the format of the annual school and district report cards. The process, underway since November, has incorporated reviews of statutes and regulations, conversations with a variety of constituencies and on-line surveys. The team anticipates bringing final recommendations to the EOC for consideration at its April meeting. Changes that can be implemented without impacting the printing contract are to be incorporated in the 2007 publication; other changes are to be implemented in 2008.

Dr. Horne provided information on the Career and Technology Center ratings. Changes to the CATE ratings have been delayed in anticipation of the development of assessments, as required by the Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act. Rep. Walker asked about the consistency of rigor required of CATE and other schools in the ratings process. Dr. Horne indicated that these reviews should identify inconsistencies in expectations.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He drew members' attention to the Interim Report on Implementation of the Child Development Education Program Pilot and the February 6 *At A Glance*. Members of the EOC discussed the quality of the data, the increased numbers of students served, marketing the program, non-participating districts and views on legislation under consideration.

Mr. Daniel also reported on commonalities and differences between the EOC budget recommendations and those recommended by Governor Sanford.

C. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He asked members to review the draft annual report and provide comments and changes to Dana Yow by February 20.

He reminded members that South Carolina had achieved the status of first in the nation in the January 2007 *Quality Counts*.

He indicated that the county tours had been completed and that a final report is to be available at the April EOC meeting.

Mr. Martin reported on the PAIRS progress.

D. Special Reports

1. Dr. Teri Siskind, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Standards, provided members with information on the implementation status of the Testing Task Force recommendations and Act 254 requirements.
2. Mr. Jason Culbertson and Dr. Allison Jacques, SDE Division of Teacher Quality, reported on implementation of the Teacher Advancement Program and the Teacher Incentive Fund grant.
3. Superintendent Rex provided members with a copy of the Rex Transition Team report and outlined key initiatives to “reform, improve and support” through the five components in the report. He also indicated a series of scheduled town meetings. He and EOC members agreed to have a substantive discussion of the report at its April meeting. Superintendent Rex also indicated he welcomed the opportunity to work with the EOC. Mrs. Marlowe asked how the transition team recommendations paralleled with the Common Ground report. Dr. Anderson indicated she would provide information to the Superintendent and develop a comparison document.

IV. General Discussion

Dr. Anderson requested the EOC change its June meeting from June 11 to June 13 so that the EOC could meet in conjunction with the State Board of Education to hear the report of the study on computer-based or computer-adaptive testing.

The EOC adjourned.